

**Amendments To Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating income to a user savings account and to payees and monitoring a consumer's purchasing activity of a consumer, said method including:

~~receiving user financial information in a first computer system from a second computer system connected to the first computer system by a network, wherein said financial information includes user income information related to user income and user debt information related to existing user debts to payees;~~

~~—— providing at least one recommendation, wherein said recommendation includes suggestions for minimizing user debt payments and maximizing user savings, and wherein the recommendation is generated by the first computer system;~~

~~—— establishing a payment hierarchy based at least in part on said recommendation, wherein said payment hierarchy includes at least a portion of said user income allocated to said user savings account and a portion of said user income allocated to said existing user debts; transferring at least a portion of said user income, based at least in part upon said payment hierarchy, to said user savings account and at least one of said payees;~~

~~establishing and storing budget information;~~

~~acquiring user income;~~

determining, by a computer-based system for maximizing savings and based upon user savings goal information and user income information, a savings amount for transferring to a user savings account, wherein said savings amount is at least a portion of user income, and wherein user financial information comprises said user savings goal information, user debt information, user budget information and said user income information;

analyzing, by said computer-based system, said user debt information to determine a plurality of outstanding debt payments;

determining, by said computer-based system, a plurality of penalties by analyzing, for each of said plurality of outstanding debt payments, a penalty associated with at least one of a payment amount and a payment timing;

determining, by said computer-based system and in response to said transferring said savings amount, a payment hierarchy based upon said savings amount, said plurality of penalties and at least one of: said payment information, said user savings goal information and said user income information, wherein said payment hierarchy minimizes said plurality of penalties; and uploading obtaining, by said computer-based system, purchase data including a retailer item identifier from a retailer system, wherein ; accessing a remote processor to standardize said purchase data to correlate is correlated to a budgeted budget item within said user budget information with an actually purchased item; and  
reconciling said user budget information.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein establishing and storing further comprising establishing said budget item by budget information further comprises:~~

accessing a remote processor to select a said budget item;  
receiving a standard identifier for said budget item;  
storing said standard identifier; and  
allocating funds for said budget item.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein said budget item is selected by designating one of a product category and a specific product.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said standard identifier is one of a retailer identifier (ID) and a manufacturer item identifier.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining said purchase data comprises uploading said purchase data comprises using a device which includes a smartchip.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said device comprises at least one of a smartcard and a transponder.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising alerting at least one of a consumer and a third-party when a ~~budget reconciliation~~ said reconciling determines that one of over-spending or under-spending has occurred.

9. (Canceled)

10. (New) A system for maximizing savings comprising:  
a network interface communicating with a memory, said network interface configured to receive user financial information, wherein said user financial information comprises user savings goal information, user debt information, user budget information and user income information;  
said memory communicating with a processor; and  
said processor, when executing a computer program, is configured to:

determine, based upon said user savings goal information and said user income information, a savings amount for transferring to a user savings account, wherein said savings amount is at least a portion of user income;

analyze said user debt information to determine a plurality of outstanding debt payments;  
determine a plurality of penalties by analyzing, for each of said plurality of outstanding debt payments, a penalty associated with at least one of a payment amount and a payment timing;

determine, in response to said transferring said savings amount, a payment hierarchy based upon said savings amount, said plurality of penalties and at least one of: said payment information, said user savings goal information and said user income information, wherein said payment hierarchy minimizes said plurality of penalties; and

obtain purchase data from a retailer system, wherein said purchase data is correlated to a budget item within said user budget information; and

reconcile said user budget information.

11. (New) A tangible computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computer-based system for maximizing savings, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:

determining, by said computer-based system and based upon user savings goal information and user income information, a savings amount for transferring to a user savings account, wherein said savings amount is at least a portion of user income, and wherein user financial information comprises said user savings goal information, user debt information, user budget information and said user income information;

analyzing, by said computer-based system, said user debt information to determine a plurality of outstanding debt payments;

determining, by said computer-based system, a plurality of penalties by analyzing, for each of said plurality of outstanding debt payments, a penalty associated with at least one of a payment amount and a payment timing;

determining, by said computer-based system and in response to said transferring said savings amount, a payment hierarchy based upon said savings amount, said plurality of penalties and at least one of: said payment information, said user savings goal information and said user income information, wherein said payment hierarchy minimizes said plurality of penalties; and

obtaining, by said computer-based system, purchase data from a retailer system, wherein said purchase data is correlated to a budget item within said user budget information; and

reconciling said user budget information.